

# SELECTIONS FROM THE VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE  
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND  
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 1st April, 1871.

## POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

A correspondent of the *Rohilkhund Akhbār*, of the 18th March, contrasts the usefulness of the money-orders issued from public treasuries with that of the hoondees issued from Native banks. It is true that, unlike hoondees, money-orders are free from all limitation as to the time when the money will be payable, as well as from the payment of an extra fee in addition to the discount; but there are many defects in the money-order system, which, if removed, would add to its usefulness.

(1) The rate of discount is too high, and ought to be reduced to eight annas per cent. instead of one rupee.

(2) In case of a money-order being lost, a fresh fee, equal in value to the discount, has to be paid for obtaining a duplicate; nay, a fee of double that value is charged if it be necessary to recover the amount of the last order from the issuing office. In case of hoondees this is not the case: a duplicate and even a triplicate can be had without any additional cost.

(3) The amount of a hoondee can be realized in any city or town on payment of a small discount. This is not the case with a money-order, which can only be cashed at the treasury on which it is payable.

(4) A money-order can only be cashed by the person named in the letter of advice, unlike a hoondee, the amount of which can be realized by any person on security.

The *Gwalior Gazette*, of the 19th March, refers to the orders of the Secretary of State as to certain European soldiers who had been guilty of disobedience, viz., that they should suffer the penalty of the crime in India, instead of being sent to England as usual; and remarks that many people are of opinion that, as these soldiers generally commit the offence in order that they may be sent to London, there is a likelihood of its becoming less frequent if they are made to stay in India to undergo the punishment.

The *Márwár Gazette*, of the 20th March, comments upon the orders circulated by Government to Native Chiefs directing them to make arrangements for withdrawing the freedom of using arms from their subjects, so that none of them may keep arms, except with the permission of the ruling power. It is remarked that these orders of the English Government are certainly well intentioned, and that the suspicions of those who might be led to suppose that the object contemplated was to weaken the power of the Native States are quite unfounded. So far from this, Government rather wishes that each of these States may be able to stand by itself, without depending on it for aid.

It now remains to consider how far there is a possibility of the orders in question being carried out. It is reasonable to suppose that in States where there are but few zemindars they can be easily enforced; while the greatest difficulty will have to be encountered in giving effect to them in States where landholders abound, and still more so where they are refractory and seditious. The writer is of opinion that the execution of the orders should be delayed till the Police arrangements in Native States have been placed on an efficient footing. At present the imperfect arrangements for the protection of life and property are complemented by the use of arms, and it will, therefore, be improper to take away this assistance until sufficient protection can be secured. The Police system of the English Government is excellent, and consequently the

prohibition of the use of arms is in no way injurious to subjects. Were it otherwise, such prohibition would do great harm. The writer concludes with advising the Government of Jodhpore not to delay in adopting measures for reforming its police system, now that orders for disarmament have to be carried out; and suggests that, if the Government took to the plan of enlisting in the Police people of the Baori tribe, who inhabit the villages and pursue a depredatory career, cases of robbery and murder would be less frequent.

The *Oudh Akhbār*, of the 21st March, has a long communicated article on the administration of the Panjáb. The writer concurs with the Lieutenant-Governor in thinking that, under the existing arrangements, the time of Deputy Commissioners is so much taken up with Civil and Criminal affairs, that they have scarcely leisure to attend to the political management and administration of the country, and hopes that the Commission appointed to devise measures for relieving those functionaries from their heavy work will suggest some good scheme.

The writer does not approve of the opinion expressed by the editor of the *Indian Public Opinion* on the subject, viz., that an additional Commissioner be appointed in each division for taking cognizance of all appeals now brought into Deputy Commissioners' Courts. Such an arrangement would involve much additional expenditure. The writer would suggest a more economical plan, which will relieve Deputy Commissioners from the heavy work which now devolves on them, and at the same time simplify the decision of Civil suits, and save the parties a good deal of the expense and trouble they have now to incur in the prosecution of their suits. He would intrust the settlement of suits below Rs. 200 to Honorary Judges to be appointed for the purpose in each district. The duty of these Judges will be to ask each of the parties to a suit to name a *panch*, and, in consultation with the *panches* thus nominated, to conduct the decision in accordance with Sections 315 to 325, of Act No. VIII. of 1859. Should the Judges

and the *panches* happen to be divided in opinion, they would do well to write down their opinions separately, and submit them to the District Court for final decision.

Similarly, he would place the settlement of suits of from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 in the hands of the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners of each district, and leave the disposal of those above Rs. 500 to a divisional committee composed of the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners of the several districts. Cases in which the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners of a district should happen to disagree in opinion, will be submitted to the divisional committee which in its turn will refer cases where the members dissent to the Judicial Commissioner for final decision. This officer will also exercise a general supervision over the Honorary Judges, the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners, and the Divisional Committee, and besides passing judgment in cases where these happen to be divided in opinion, will take upon himself to examine the decisions of suits of upwards of Rs. 5,000, and have any errors in judgment that might suggest themselves to him corrected, thus precluding the system of instituting appeals, which only results in the ruin of the parties concerned.

By the adoption of the above plan, Deputy Commissioners will get rid of all work connected with civil affairs,—so that, if the exercise of criminal powers be also separated from their jurisdiction, all they will have left will be the discharge of revenue work. The duties of Deputy Commissioners being thus considerably lightened, it would suffice to have one for every six districts. The saving effected by this reduction in the number of Deputy Commissioners might be utilized in appointing Sessions Judges, say, one for every four districts, on a monthly salary equal to that received by a first-class Deputy Commissioner. These Judges might hold sessions for a week in each of the four districts under their jurisdiction, and decide all criminal cases, besides exercising a supervision over police affairs.

The same paper expresses its surprise at the orders issued by the Inspector-General of Police for Central India to his subordinate officers, directing them to fill up all places in the Police that are vacated by well-bred *employés* by persons of inferior castes, sweepers, *dathyars*, *chamárs*, &c., to the total exclusion of men of high castes, such as Hindús, Musalmans, Rajpúts, Kshattriyas, and the like. These orders are being carried out in all districts in the jurisdiction of the Inspector-General, and it was in pursuance of them that the four places which recently fell vacant in the Burhanpore town police were filled up by *dathyars*, and ten *dathyars* and *chamárs* were invited to Khundwah from Burhanpore for employment—the applications of Hindú and Musalman candidates being rejected. The writer is quite at a loss to make out what the Inspector-General means by enlisting people of low castes into the police.

The same paper writes, on the authority of the *Pioneer*, that an attorney of the High Court at Calcutta, who was paid Rs. 300 by a client in order to institute an appeal in that Court, appropriated the money to his own use; and that the Chief Justice on becoming aware of the fact, passed an order to the effect that attorneys should furnish a security of Rs. 2,000 before they could be allowed to practise as such.

The editor of the *Quah Akhbár* thinks that the order will be highly unpalatable to some of the attorneys, and regrets that the dishonesty of a single individual should have deprived a whole community of credit.

In its column of local news, the same paper reports that on the 19th of March, a theft was committed in the bungalow of Mr. O'Brien, the schoolmaster.

The editor remarks that gamblers and vagrants are generally the authors of such petty thefts, and is of opinion that the only possible way for putting an effective check to the crime is by exercising a strict supervision over all notoriously bad characters, and persons of bad livelihood, by preventing them

from roving at large, or causing them to be kept in Police-stations at night. Also, an engagement or recognizance should be exacted from persons who permit others to gamble in their houses and receive gifts from them, which will put a stop to the crime.

The *Akmul-ul-Akhbár*, of the 22nd March, under the heading "Nagpore," asserts that scarcity of water is felt in the city this year as it was in the past. Wells have dried up, and fountains ceased flowing.

The *Dhaultpore Gazette*, of the same date, states, on the authority of a person who is said to have come from Bikanere, that the affairs of that State are in great disorder, and that the soldiers have not received pay since a year ago, and are starving. All this disorder and mismanagement is owing to the fickle and capricious temper of the Rájá, which disheartened his Minister, Pandit Man Phúl, and led him to tender his resignation. In his place the Rájá appointed a respectable gentleman of Delhi, on whom he at first heaped his favours, but afterwards dismissed for no fault.

The *Akhbár-i-Alam*, of the 23rd March, complains in strong terms of the bad way in which the privies at the East Indian Railway-stations are built. They are so constructed that a person going into any one of them cannot help seeing all the men in the other privies within the enclosure. This is due to the entrances of the several privies being on the same side, and having no shutters or screens at the front. The writer heaps reproaches on the East Indian Railway Company for their utter disregard of decency in building privies of this kind, and wonders that they should have so far overlooked the rules of civilization and refinement. He, however, hopes that when the complaint preferred by him comes to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, he will write to the Board of Agency at Calcutta on the subject, and have the abuse removed.

A correspondent of the *Benares Akhbár*, of the same date, finds fault with the police arrangements of the Benares District,

and suggests the advisability of transferring to other places thanahdars who have been at a place for six months.

In its column of local news, the same paper reports that cholera has begun to make its appearance in the city, and impresses upon the Municipal Committee the necessity of attending to cleanliness and sanitation, adding that the plan of having the aqueducts cleaned by means of limestone, adopted by the late Officiating Magistrate, will produce much good.

The *Naiyir-i-Akbár*, of the same date, noticing the grant of Rs. 9,000 by Government to Dr. Hunter for taking photographs of all antique buildings in Madras, comments upon the desirability of recording the historical facts connected with each. This would serve a good end in furnishing much useful information to the public.

The *Allypurrh Institute Gazette*, of the 24th March, has a long article on the state of orphans in India. It is stated that in all civilized countries there are special committees for managing the support of all such children as are without parents or guardians. The members of these committees take upon themselves to make efficient arrangement for their board and lodging, as well as education, by raising a fund from subscriptions among themselves. The writer commends the plan as extremely laudable, and considers it a mark of civilization and humanity that men should be so attentive to their duties towards their fellow-creatures, and prompt in relieving them in distress. Unfortunately, no such system exists in India where poor and helpless orphans either lead a miserable and wretched life, or seek refuge in the orphanages and charitable asylums established by Christian missionaries in different places, with the object of supporting and bringing up all such Hindustani children, and finally converting them to Christianity. It is a reproach to Hindustanis that they should be so devoid of patriotic feelings and national sympathy as to suffer the offspring of their fellow-countrymen to starve, or else be brought up at the charity of a foreign nation, and ultimately converted to a different religion. Every year some

fifty or hundred children have recourse to the missionaries, on whom, properly speaking, they have no claims for support; while the nation to which they belong never troubles itself about the affair, and is ever occupied with thoughts of selfishness and personal interest.

The writer invites the attention of Hindustáni gentlemen to the subject, and impresses upon them the necessity of establishing orphanages and charitable institutions in different localities for bringing up all the indigent and helpless children of their respective parts of the country, instead of leaving them, as now, to be supported by a foreign people—a course which not only stands in the way of national improvement and injures national honour, but attaches a stigma of disgrace to the Hindustánis. It is added that, if the natives of India take into consideration the large sums of money they so profusely spend in their apparel, and a variety of extravagant pursuits, they will find the establishment of the institutions in question a comparatively easy and less expensive affair.

A Jaipore correspondent of the *Panjábí Akhbár*, of the 25th March, writes that the loss of a *misl* from the Civil Court in that city had recently come to notice; and that it has now been known that 53 more *misls* connected with the execution of decrees of the Court have been robbed, and that a piece of cloth with fire in it was thrown into the office records, though, fortunately, it did no harm.

The correspondent attributes this state of things to the unguarded state in which the office is left, and remarks that, although forty peons and a guard of soldiers is employed expressly for its safety, they are made by the courtiers to serve them as orderlies and do private work, to the total neglect of their public duties. Accordingly, he lays the whole blame of the matter on the courtiers, and exempts the soldiers from all charge of neglect; while he draws the attention of the authorities of the State to this improper practice.

Under the heading "Lahore," the same paper comments on the necessity of widening the bath for females near the Lahore Gate. In its present state it is too narrow to accommodate the large number of women who go there to bathe, and the result is that many of them are obliged to wash in an outer apartment where seclusion is not secured. The writer invites the attention of the Municipal Committee to the matter, and hopes that steps will be taken to remove the inconvenience.

Another point to which he would draw the Committee's attention is the bad situation of the slaughter-house. It lies close to the splendid building of the Medical School, and in the vicinity of a populous part of the city, which is by no means a suitable site. Its transfer to a locality remote from habitation is, therefore, most desirable.

It is also stated that the sides of the drains by the streets are in a bad state of repair. To add to the troubles of the passengers, the place is not lighted in the evening. The writer has often seen people tripping over this drain.

Referring to the proposal of the Secretary of State to settle a pension on Lady Durand, wife of the late Lieutenant-Governor of the Panjáb, in acknowledgment of the esteemed services rendered to the State by the deceased, the writer eulogizes the Government for its recognition of services rendered in its behalf, but remarks that the maintenance to be assigned in the instance under notice ought to be consistent with the dignity and respectability of a gentleman of Sir Henry Durand's position.

The same paper alludes to the Annual Horse Show at Amritsar, which is to take place on the 12th instant. A committee will be formed, as usual, with the Deputy Commissioner for its President, for distribution of prizes. The selection of members has not yet been made. In the writer's opinion, it would add to the usefulness of the fair to have Native gentlemen as well as Europeans for members, instead of appointing the former only, as has hitherto been the custom.

The *Koh-i-Núr*, of the same date, in a long article, complains of the severities practised in Lahore in the enforcement of the Lock Hospital Act. It is stated that women whose profession it is only to sing and dance are exposed to the greatest distress and disgrace, and have left the city in numbers, while those who ought to come under the Act pursue their profligate career with greater freedom. In the writer's opinion the Act is calculated to do harm rather than good, and he supports his position by an anecdote of Aurangzeb's time. It is said that when Sháh Jahán was his son's prisoner, he used to beguile the tediousness of the time by teaching his grandson, Bahádtur Sháh. The pupil waited on him twice in the course of the day, and would now and then relate what passed in the Court. One day he informed Sháh Jahán that his father had issued orders that all prostitutes should enter into a legal marriage, or, in the event of disobedience of orders, quit his realm. Sháh Jahán, on hearing this, desired the prince to tell his father that, looking to the single life the soldiery had to lead, the effect of such an order could not but be ruinous to the honour and chastity of the people. Aurangzeb, on hearing the message, revoked his order.

The *Meerut Gazette*, of the same date, comments upon the order passed by the Chief Commissioner of Oudh, that Native gentlemen going to see him at his bungalow should leave their shoes at the stairs, and then proceed bare-footed to the room of audience. It is asserted that the order is at variance with the Governor-General's Resolution of 1870, and the editor thinks it strange that the Chief Commissioner should have taken the liberty of issuing it. He is of opinion that Natives are not bound to comply with the order; but remarks that, as they are accustomed to flattery, they will have no hesitation in yielding implicit obedience.

#### POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Koh-i-Núr*, of the 25th March, notices the oppressions practised by the Russians on the people of Bokhara. Women

and shopkeepers, in particular, receive bad treatment at their hands. In consequence of this the gates of the city are shut as soon as it is sunset, and, as the complaints of the people are disregarded, there is reason to fear lest a rebellion should break out.

A correspondent of the same paper writing from Peshawur, asserts that on account of not receiving the usual allowance assigned them in the time of Amír Dost Mohammed Khán, the Khyberies have been making disturbances. Last month they plundered 300 camels and 100 mules of caravans, laden with merchandize worth thirty lakhs of rupees; on another occasion two or three merchants, and one Qází Mohammed Khán, who was marching from Cabul to Peshawur with his family, were robbed by them. The guards of the Amír's outposts, as well as the merchants, were wounded, and the property of the former was also plundered. The Amír has since stationed two more regiments of infantry at the mouth of the Khybur Pass on the side of Cabul, and has increased the numbers of the guards at the outposts; but, notwithstanding this, the Khybur road is still unsafe, and a proclamation has been made in Peshawur to the effect that until the safety of the road is secured, no passengers should undertake a journey to Cabul.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The *Najm-ul-Akhabár*, of the 24th March, notices the valuable service done to the women of Delhi by six Christian ladies, who, it is said, have come from England expressly with the object of benefitting and civilizing Hindustání women. Two teach Musalman women, and a third, Hindú and Bengali women, at their own houses. Of the other three, two are in charge of a Hindú and a Musalman Female Normal School; while the third, who is well versed in medicine, devotes herself to the care of sick women.

The ladies take a hearty interest in their respective tasks, and their labours have been highly successful. The Musalman Female Normal School has made great progress, and has pro-

duced able schoolmistresses, some of whom receive up to Rs. 40 a month.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, viz. :—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	WHERE PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
			1871.	1871.
1	Dhaultpore Gazette, ...	Dhaultpore, ...	March, 8th	March, 30th
2	Naiyir-i-Akhbār, ...	Bijnour, ...	„ 9th	April, 1st
3	Mālwa Akhbār, ...	Indour, ...	„ 15th	March, 26th
4	Dhaultpore Gazette, ...	Dhaultpore, ...	„ 15th	„ 30th
5	Saharanpore Gazette, ...	Saharanpore, ...	„ 18th	„ 30th
6	Rohilkhund Akhbār, ...	Muradabad, ...	„ 18th	„ 30th
7	Gwalior Gazette, ...	Gwalior, ...	„ 19th	„ 26th
8	Agra Akhbār, ...	Agra, ...	„ 20th	„ 30th
9	Mārwar Gazette, ...	Jodhpore, ...	„ 20th	„ 30th
10	Riyaz-i-Nūr, ...	Muradabad, ...	„ 21st	„ 30th
11	Oudh Akhbār, ...	Lucknow, ...	„ 21st	„ 30th
12	Khair Khwah-i-Panjāb, ...	Gujarānwalla, ...	„ 3rd week,	„ 26th
13	Dhaultpore Gazette, ...	Dhaultpore, ...	„ 22nd	„ 30th
14	Akmal-ul-Akhbār, ...	Delhi, ...	„ 22nd	„ 30th
15	Urdū Muir Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 22nd	„ 31st
16	Hindi Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 22nd	„ 31st
17	Benāres Akhbār, ...	Benares, ...	„ 23rd	„ 26th
18	Akhbār-i-Alam, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 23rd	„ 30th
19	Naiyir-i-Akbar, ...	Bijnour, ...	„ 23rd	April, 1st
20	Allygurh Institute Gazette, ...	Allygurh, ...	„ 24th	March, 26th
21	Rajpūtāna Social Science Congress, ...	Jaipore, ...	„ 24th	„ 30th
22	Lawrence Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 24th	„ 30th
23	Urdu Akhbār, ...	Delhi, ...	„ 24th	„ 30th
24	Najm-ul-Akhbār, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 24th	„ 30th
25	Koh-i-Nūr, ...	Lahore, ...	„ 25th	„ 28th
26	Panjābī Akhbār, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 25th	„ 28th
27	Majma-ul-Bahrain, ...	Ludhiana, ...	„ 25th	„ 29th
28	Urdū Delhi Gazette, ...	Agra, ...	„ 25th	„ 30th
29	Meerut Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 25th	„ 31st
30	Anjuman-i-Hind, ...	Lucknow, ...	„ 25th	April, 1st
31	Kārnāmāh, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 27th	March, 30th
32	Matla-i-Nūr, ...	Cawnpore, ...	„ 27th	„ 31st
33	Dabdabā-i-Sikundari, ...	Rampore, ...	„ 27th	„ 31st
34	Jagat Samāchār, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 27th	April, 1st
35	Shola-i-Tūr, ...	Cawnpore, ...	„ 28th	„ 1st
36	Nasim-i-Jaunpore, ...	Jaunpore, ...	„ 28th	„ 1st
37	Dhaultpore Gazette, ...	Dhaultpore, ...	„ 29th	March, 30th

ALLAHABAD :

The 3rd April, 1871. }

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